Vol. VI. Numb. 21

THE OBSERVATOR.

Something more concerning the late Action at Sea. An Account of the Great Lady NECESSITY; *of what she has done, and may do for us. Of the* French *King's Mint-Bills, &c.*

From Saturday, May 10. to Wednesday, May 14. 1707.

Obs. WELL, *Roger*, what do the People say of the late Action at Sea?

Country-m. They say as you do; That the Captains were brave *English*-men, and that 'tis pitty we had no more Ships there, that we might have destroy'd the Enemies Squadron. They say, that those three Captains, had they had a Superiority like the *French*, they would have made a better Hand of it; for in good Truth, the *French* have made but a sorry Purchase, they have taken but seven or eight of our Merchant-men.

Obs. Thank your brave Commanders for their vigorous Resistance. Our Naval Disease, seems to come towards a *Crisis*; and nothing is wanting towards a Remedy, but the Presence of a certain *Great Lady*.

Country-m. A Lady concern'd in our Naval Affairs! What, a *She Tar* in pitch'd Petticoats? En't this Great Lady a *Mermaid?*

Obs. She is a Lady that may set us to Rights, if we an't past Cure; she has done it many a Time already, but 'tis our Scandal always to make use of her at a Pinch; and to do that often, shows us to be a fooliish unthinking People, because *Male Management* may creep so far upon us, that it mayn't be in her Power to help us; and her Help has at best but a very grinning Aspect, when we look back, and behold her catching us out of the Fire, which with a rapid Vengeance, would have destroy'd us; the natural Effect of Want of *Foresight*.

Country-m. Pray mayn't I ask you who this Great Lady is? What is her Name, and where her Place of Aboad?

Obs. This Lady's Name is NECESSITY; a Lady of an ancient Family, she lives every where, and governs every where.

Country-m. Master, if it be the same Lady NECESSITY that I know, she's a meer *Strumpet*, and an Enemy to *Vertue* and *Worth*: How many has she caus'd to pilfer and steal, and so has sent 'em to the Gallows? How many has she kept out of good Employments, by Want of Money? I don't like her.

Obs. Roger, thou do'st not know her.

Country-m. I am sure you know her to your Sorrow.

Obs. She is the most accomplish'd Lady in the Universe, and has done most Good.

Country-m. And my *Madam Necessity* is the ugliest confounded'st old Trot that ever trod Shoe of Leather; for she generally pursues and gripes the honest and vertuous. Murrian take her! she has made my Heart ake many a Time; I am sure 'tis long with this old ill-favour'd Vixen, that I lent you so much Money, to keep you out of the Hands of your Enemies; and I am sure 'tis long with her, that you don't pay me again. She's the Mistress of Misrule.

Obs. All this while, *Roger*, you and I differ about the Person; your Lady and mine, are not the same.

Country-m. Mine's a Hag, a Fury, a Female Varment; and if your's be any better, describe her Features, tell us what good Things she has done in the World, and what she may do for the Good of *Great Britain*.

Obs. I find I must do that, to inform your Understanding; and therefore I will give you an Account of what she has done in and for *England*, and that within the Memory of some, and most of the People.

'Twas Madam *Necessity* made us oppose the Designs of *Strafford* and *Laud*, who, with their Faction, endeavour'd to subvert the Civil and Religious Liberties of *England*; tho' 'twas our Folly we did not see before, and prevent her coming to open our Eyes; for tho' she's a Lady, she has a very rough and hard Hand, and the Medicines she applies, are like Blisters, cauterizing, cupping, scarrifying, *&c.* better prevented, than used.

'Twas *Necessity* made us restore King *Charles* the II. but there was no Necessity to do it without Articles of Limitation, which honest Mr. *Pierpoint* moved, but had no one to second him, and so we were forc'd to have Recourse to Madam *Necessity* in too short a Time after.

'Twas *Necessity* made us build the thirty Sail of Men of War, with Money given for that End; and those concerned in building them, to be accomptable to the House of Commons only; and which Charge we might have sav'd, had not we suffer'd King *Charles* to spend the Money arising by *Tonnage* and *Poundage*, upon his Women; which Money was given only for the Maintenance of the Navy.

'Twas *Necessity* made the Pensionary Parliament ordain Laws abjuring Transubstantiation, *&c.* in order to throw all Papists out of the Parliament and Government: 'Twas *She* that made that Parliament impeach *Danby*, and send him to the Tower; and 'twas *Necessity* made King *Charles* dissolve the Parliament, who had so long gone on Hand in Hand together.

'Twas this Madam *Necessity* that made us give 200000 Pounds to King *Charles* for the *Habeas Corpus Act*, and a good Bargain too; and 'twas *She* that made the Parliament pay that Money by Commissioners of their own at *Guild-hall*.

'Twas *Necessity* that made the Fellows of *Magdalen* Colledge to stand up for the Rights of *English* men; *Necessity* touch'd 'em, and they squeek'd

ſqueek'd, tho' before they could neither hear, ſee, or underſtand how the Laity were oppreſs'd: But when they began to *feel* the Smart themſelves, they found a Neceſſity of being honeſt.

This was the very *Lady* that made the Biſhops oppoſe K. *James*, and pull him down, they had ſet up, with all the Regalities of a Crown, fix'd faſt and ſecur'd with the Nails and Rivets of Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance, which was to laſt for ever and aye; but held no longer than while they held the King; For as ſoon as he took other Prieſts into his Councils, then the Church was in Danger, and not before; and ſo, *Roger*, *Neceſſity* made them call in the Prince of *Orange*, to turn out King *James*; and *Neceſſity* made King *James* call them the *Trumpeters of Rebellion*, and ſo be gone.

Then came Madam *Neceſſity*, in her full Splendor, with a large Train of little and greater Neceſſities. Now, 'twas neceſſary to make the Prince of *Orange* King of *England* by *Convention* of the People; then 'twas neceſſary to make that Convention a Parliament.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter; but I think there was no Neceſſity of diſſolving that Parliament, to chuſe a worſe.

Obſ. Then *Neceſſity* caus'd us to paſs the *Trienial* Bill, and that for the better regulating of Tryals in Caſes of High Treaſon, and to make a firm and laſting Law for ſettling the Succeſſion in the Proteſtant Line: All this *Neceſſity* taught us, which ſhe had no Occaſion to have done, had we had any Foreſight.

In the whole Reign of King *William*, hardly was any Thing done for the Publick Good, but what Madam *Neceſſity* put us upon: And had that Prince liv'd, he would indeed have made a Vertue of *Neceſſity*; for he promis'd well in making my Lord *Pembrook* Lord High Admiral of *England*; by which Means the Glory of the Navy would have been retriev'd, the Empire of the Ocean maintain'd, and the Dilapidations of the Walls of our Iſland, which had been made by a *Land Admiralty*, would have been repair'd, and the Nation ſet to Rights in our chief Security, our Shipping; but the good King dy'd, and there was a *Neceſſity* for that too.

Neceſſity gave us a ſpeedy Viſit after her Majeſty's happy Acceſſion to the Throne; for her Royal Perſon was hemm'd in by High-Church, who would have ruin'd the beſt of Queens, had not Neceſſity diſcarded that wicked deſigning Faction of *Tackers*, *Memorialiſts*, and *Sneakers*.

Was it not meer Neceſſity, made the Lords throw out the Bill concerning Occaſional Conformity, and to ſtand ſo firm to the *Engliſh* Liberties, in the Caſe of *Aſhby*, and the *Aylſbury*-men?

Was it not Neceſſity, abſolute Neceſſity, that made the honeſt People of *England* ſtand by the Queen in the Choice of a new Parliament, againſt the *Memorialiſts* and *Tackers*, that would have ruin'd both Queen and Queendom?

Was it not Neceſſity that made ſome People join with the Queen, in bringing to paſs the *Union* of ſo great Advantages to the Nations? Which puts us under a Neceſſity of defending both Nations, as equally concern'd on both Sides ſo to do. —— Never fear it, *Roger*, NECESSITY will help us out at all dead Lifts.

Country-m. But, Maſter, you were miſtaken, when you ſaid, *Neceſſity* help'd every Body; for if it has ſav'd us at any Time, it has ruin'd the *French* King at this Time.

Obſ. As how, *Roger*?

Country-m. Why, his Neceſſity put him upon the Project of *Mint-Bills*, and the vaſt Diſcount upon them has put his People upon the *Neceſſity* of Rebelling againſt him: And if Prince *Eugene* and the Duke of *Savoy* do enter *France*, and join them, that will put him upon a *Neceſſity* of running away, and ſo farewel *Nebuchadnezzer* the XIV. of *France*.

Obſ. He wanted Foreſight too. It's out of the Power of *Neceſſity* to help him.

Country-m. Maſter, I'll tell you what. I find, by your Eyes, that there is a Neceſſity for you to go to Bed, and ſo I wiſh you a good Night's Reſt.

Obſ. Good Night, *Roger*.

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